

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06
ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 PA-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3667
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 16611

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO: MASS MEDIA: DRAFT DECLARATION AND
WISEMEN COMMISSION

REFS: (A) PARIS 14035, (B) PARIS 3097, (C) PARIS 3366

1. GUNNAR NAESELUND CONFIRMED DURING JUNE 2 MEETING
WITH DELOFF ORIGINAL SECRETARIAT PLAN TO KEEP SEPARATE
THE FORMULATION OF A DRAFT DECLARATION AND CONVENING
OF A WISEMEN COMMISSION.

2. RECOGNIZING PRESS OF TIME, SECRETARIAT WILL NOW
DRAFT INITIAL TEXT OF DECLARATION WITH HELP OF "ONE
OR SEVERAL OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS". NAESELUND STATED
FRANKLY THAT THIS PROCESS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IN
UTMOST SECRECY AND NAMES OF THOSE PARTICIPATING CARE-
FULLY HELD. HE EXPECTS THAT WORK WILL BEGIN WITHIN THE
NEXT MONTH OR SO, WITH A VIEW TOWARD HAVING A TEXT BY
FALL WHICH "SELECTED GROUPS" AROUND THE WORLD WILL BE
CALLED UPON TO REVIEW. THE TEXT WILL CONTAIN ONLY
THOSE ELEMENTS WHICH THE SECRETARIAT'S ANALYSIS OF THE
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MASS MEDIA DEBATE IN NAIROBI HAS SHOWN SHOULD BE
ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. WE DID NOT HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS
WHAT THESE COMMONALITIES MIGHT INCLUDE, BUT
NAESELUND SEEMED CONVINCED THAT NOTHING
UNACCEPTABLE TO U.S. WOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO THE
SECRETARIAT'S VERSION.

3. ALTHOUGH THE DG IS STILL TRYING TO SECURE SWEDEN'S PALME AS CHAIRMAN OF THE "WISEMEN COMMISSION", NAESSELUND'S PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT OWING TO PALME'S PERSONAL DOMESTIC POLITICAL POSITION, HE WILL NOT ACCEPT. THE DG DOES HAVE AN (UNNAMED) "INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED" CANDIDATE TO FALL BACK ON, WHICH IN NAESSELUND'S VIEW MEANS THAT A CHAIRMAN WILL BE CHOSEN WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, AND THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION HELD PERHAPS AS EARLY AS AUGUST. THE COMMISSION, ACCORDING TO NAESSELUND, WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FORMULATION OF A DECLARATION, BUT MAY BE ASKED DURING A "PRIVATE SESSION" TO PASS ITS JUDGMENT ON THE SECRETARIAT'S TEXT. THE WISEMEN COMMISSION WILL BE CHARGED WITH UNDERTAKING A VERY BROAD AND AMBITIOUS PROGRAM AS OUTLINED REFTELS B AND C, WITH A FIRST PRINCIPAL TASK TO PRODUCE AN "INTERIM REPORT" WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE 39 UNGA (FALL 1978) AND THE 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE.

4. COMMENT: NEITHER NAESSELUND NOR OTHER SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS HAVE YET FOCUSED ON WHAT "GROUPS" OR INDIVIDUALS IN THE US MIGHT BE CONSULTED ONCE THE SECRETARIAT'S TEXT IS PREPARED. WE HAVE STRESSED REPEATEDLY TO THE DG, ADG MAKAGIANSAR, AND NOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 16611

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NAESSELUND THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING THE US MEDIA THE

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS IN ORDER TO HELP DIFFUSE THE POTENTIAL DOMESTIC OPPOSITION WHICH WILL OTHERWISE BOIL OVER AGAIN IF THE MEDIA IS NOT GRADUALLY PREPARED FOR THE IDEA THAT THERE WILL BE A DECLARATION BY THE NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE. NAESSELUND SAID THAT HE WOULD REFLECT ON POSSIBLE US CONTACTS, AND DISCUSS THESE WITH USDEL. WE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT ALSO BEGIN TO CONSIDER WHO IN U.S. MIGHT PROVIDE MOST HELP ON DECLARATION ISSUE.

5. FINALLY, OUR IMPRESSION FROM SO FAR IS THAT BOTH THE FLORENCE SYMPOSIUM AND MURROW CENTER CONFERENCE HAVE HAD THEIR GREATEST VALUE IN GIVING REPRESENTATIVES OF OPPOSITE IDEOLOGICAL VIEWS ON THE MASS MEDIA THE CHANCE TO SQUARE OFF NOW, WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT GENCONF. WE HOPE THAT THE RESULT WILL BE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT CERTAIN MATTERS ARE, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE, NOT NEGOTIABLE, RESULTING IN A WILLINGNESS TO LET THE MATTER REST WITH WHAT CAN BE AGREED UPON. SINCE WE HAVE ONLY IMPRESSIONS ABOUT WHAT WENT ON AT THE FLORENCE MEETING, WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE
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DEPARTMENT'S REACTIONS AS WELL AS A FULL SET OF DOCUMENTATION FOR THE MURROW CONFERENCE (MURROW CENTER CONF. REPORT BY HARLEY JUST RECEIVED). WE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN DR. GROSS' PAPER. WE ARE ALSO STILL INTRIGUED BY SUGGESTION CONCERNING FORMATION OF AN "INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COUNCIL" (REFTEL B, PARA 9) WHICH COULD GRADUALLY ASSUME SOME OF THE IDEOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL WORK THAT UNESCO MUST NOW UNDERTAKE, AND INVITE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THIS WHEN CONVENIENT.
GAMMON

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